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Board of Directors Board Minutes December 15, 2015

Board Members Scott Reynolds, Chair, Carol Moorehead, Vice Chair, Directors: John Lang, Bob Moore, Ron Radabaugh and Terry Rahmsdorff

HDESD Staff John Rexford, Superintendent; Paul Andrews, Deputy Superintendent; Shawna Bell, Business Analyst, Aaron Fisher, Migrant Education Coordinator, Greg Munn, Director of Fiscal Services; Rachel Wenten-Chaney, Chief Information Officer and Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant

Call to Order Scott Reynolds called the December 15, 2015 meeting to order at 5:30 pm

REPORTS

Migrant Education Report

Aaron Fisher, Title 1C Migrant Education Coordinator, gave the board members an overview of the Migrant Education program. The program was implemented to provide children of migrant workers a boost because they move so often. Children of migrant workers younger than 22 years old, who have not graduated from high school, are eligible to participate in the program. Funds come from the federal government through the state. The state distributes the funds to regional programs, based on student counts, to provide service to students. High Desert ESD was serving 744 students at the end of the 2015 school year. As of 12/31/15 we are serving 541 students, but those numbers will continue to rise through the school year. There are two recruiters on staff who identify students that may qualify. They conduct a home visit and enroll the students. Recruiters often refer families for other services such as: food banks, clothing, energy/housing assistance and medical services.

Aaron highlighted specific services offered by Migrant Education. The largest service they provide is summer school. Last year there were 180 students who attended summer school K-6. They contract with Oregon Child Development Coalition to provide a 5-week winter preschool program for 20 migrant children in Jefferson County. They provide after school programs and parent trainings. They provide \$5,000 accident insurance to each student. The Parent Advisory Committee supports Migrant Education by providing input on program decision. There is a leadership camp at OSU, and we were able to send 8 high school students to participate. Aaron answered board member questions, and they thanked him for his presentation.

Technology Report

Rachel Wenten-Chaney reported that we have doubled the Wi-Fi access points across the district and have been adding wireless devices across the region by thousands. She is happy to be working with three very engaged technology directors across our districts.

The Technology Department has three goal areas for the 2015-16 school year. Each goal is broken down into four services areas: Network systems, information systems, user support and communications.

- ☒ Access – Availability and ability for staff and students to get the information they need to access their education.
- ☒ Mobility – We are accessing information on mobile devices more and more every day. This goal will focus on communication and productivity tools. Protect bandwidth for learning, but make it easy for the community to connect. Informs the decisions we make on software and services.
- ☒ Security – This is the hardest and the most important of the three goals. As a student information system host, we are sitting on thousands of student records. We will be installing a new system this summer that will provide a more secure firewall. We'll be putting extra security measures in place.

John Lang asked about the low cost internet services that had been offered to low income families. Bob mentioned while it was a great program, the requirements were very narrow and difficult to meet. Rachel said there were only 3 dozen families who have qualified, and unfortunately the service will be ending this month. We are in discussions with Webformix to put Wi-Fi on school buses for student use.

Scott complimented Rachel and the positive impact she has across the region. He continues to hear others complimenting her vision and work.

Finance and Facilities Report

Revenue collections are up over last year from an increase in State School Fund (SSF). Expenses are higher than last year from normal payroll cost increases, including a slight increase in funding for the PERS reserve. ODE recently released a revised SSF revenue estimate which is slightly less than what we had budgeted. This is due to a reduction in our district's combined ADMw projection.

The Powell Butte Community Charter School (PBCCS) board approved a business services contract with High Desert ESD at their November 19 meeting. We've started the transition work and expect to be fully operational by January. Greg confirmed that PBCCS will be saving money by contracting with High Desert.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Two long time employees are retiring in December and working through June. Katherine Procter has been with the regional program for 30 years. Mary Brown has been with our agency for many years. These two individuals have done an amazing job serving the children and districts for High Desert ESD.

- **Carol Moorehead moved and Ron Radabaugh seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.**
 - Personnel Changes for December 2015
 - Policy KG – Use of ESD Facilities
 - Board Minutes 11-17-2015

DISCUSSION ITEMS

PERS Rate Impact Discussion

The PERS Board recently released the 2017-19 advisory rates based on the 2014 valuation of pool assets and program liabilities. While the 2014 valuation provides only an advisory rate (the actual 2017-19 rates valuation), the results call for a significant increase in future rates, in the next biennium and beyond.

Factors affecting rates include earnings, benefits, rate collar, and side accounts. Greg shared a graph showing the High Desert ESD PERS rates and reserves. Higher rates are inevitable. The best we can hope for is to smooth the impact to our programs. Going forward we will have a discussion when it comes to budgeting. Superintendent Rexford said we may be looking to bump the reserve rate to mitigate future impact on programs. We are controlling our controllables the best we can, and we will make decisions that will protect our children and families.

The Finance Committee will meet after the first of the year to begin discussing possible options. Greg will poll the districts and ask how they are planning to address the higher rates. He will share their plans with the Finance Committee.

Superintendent Report and Legislative Update

- Working to get contracts in place to move forward with the Healthy Families. We need to have the primary contract in place by January 1, 2016.
- Superintendent Rexford mentioned the Bulletin article regarding EI/ECSE. It was actually picked up by the Associated Press. Janet Stephens will be working on an editorial for the Bulletin. Scott mentioned how a united voice is being raised for EI/ECSE funding. He attributes this to Bob and the rest of the HDESD board members championing EI/ECSE.
- Deputy Superintendent Andrews mentioned an article on the Alyce Hatch Center in U Magazine.
- There has been a Request for Proposal for STEM hub funding for Math in Real Life.
- Anna Higgins held the first workshop of innovative proposal with Opportunity Knocks (OK). Three of our staff presented their ideas to the OK pitch panel. John Lang noted that OK was an excellent connection, and he was very impressed with Anna when he met with her.

Board Chair Report

- Doug Nelson has been working with OSBA on the Legislative Forum on 1/20/2016. This is going to be a great opportunity with so many legislators in attendance.

Adjourn

The December 15, 2015, High Desert ESD Board of Directors Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Scott Reynolds, Board Chair

Shelley Knutz, Executive Assistant